No. 9318

(Operational Business Item)

RESOLUTION CONCERNING SUPPORT OF MINISTERIAL STUDENTS
IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, annual student enrollment data from theological education institutions across the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico, coupled with actuarial data from the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through its Clergy Supply studies, illustrates that the incoming supply of ministerial leadership is not keeping pace with those who are leaving ministry; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Higher Education of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), on behalf of the whole church, recently completed a three year study project on enlistment to Christian ministry, funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc. of Indianapolis, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the results of that study, analyses of ministerial enlistment, and recommendations for future actions are contained in Discerning the Call: Advancing the Quality of Ordained Leadership published by Chalice Press in 1992; and

WHEREAS, that study concluded there is a critical need for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to give attention to breaking down barriers which prevent dedicated people from pursuing education in preparation for Christian ministry; and

WHEREAS, one of those significant barriers is the cost of undergraduate and graduate ministerial education which will continue to rise into the twenty-first century; and

WHEREAS, many congregations currently maintain scholarship funds or have the desire to establish scholarship programs through a variety of means including individual bequests, memorial gifts, or operational budgets.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, July 15-20, 1993 reaffirm its support for an educated ministry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that clergy and laity in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) be called upon to actively encourage persons who demonstrate the commitment, skills, and abilities to pursue the vocation of Christian ministry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to make available scholarship funds for use by Disciples undergraduate and graduate ministerial students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that regions, affiliated institutions of higher education, the Christian Church Foundation, and the Division of Higher Education of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), when requested, offer their services to congregations in developing, expanding, and/or administering scholarship funds.